

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An auction system comprising:

a management server for managing an auction connected
 5 through a communication network to terminals used by
 participants in the auction, and including a bidding
 management unit for storing a supplied total number of
 products or services supplied for the auction and managing
 10 the number of bidding sessions, and a time period of
 bidding, and a calculating unit for calculating a
 distribution of prices by bidders, wherein said bidding
 management unit determines bidders at the expiration of an
 invitation time-period for inviting bids, and said
 15 calculating unit calculates the distribution of the bidding
 prices based on the prices bid by the bidders, and said
 bidding management unit announces the calculated results to
 the determined bidders through the communication network to
 urge the determined bidders to bid at the next bidding
 20 session with reference to the announced price distribution
 and to enable them to decide a bidding price based on the
 calculated results.

2. The auction system according to claim 1, wherein said
 25 bidding management unit stores said supplied total number of
 products or services supplied to the auction market, and
 said calculating unit counts a demanded total number of
 products or services based on the number of participants in
 the bidding and the number of products demanded by the
 participants, and the bidding management unit compares said
 30 supplied total number of products with said demanded total
 number of products and determines the bidders when a
 relation "the demanded total number>the supplied total
 number" is established.

3. The auction system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
 35 said bidding management unit stores the invitation time-
 period and determines the bidders after the expiration of
 the invitation time-period.

4. The auction system according to any one of claims 1, 2
 40 and 3, wherein said bidding management unit stores a reserve
 price or a suggested bidding price and announces it through
 the communication network.

5. The auction system according to any one of claims 1,
 45 2, 3 and 4, wherein said calculating unit calculates the
 price distribution in the first bidding session, calculates
 the price distributions in the second and later bidding
 sessions, and compares the calculated results for the second
 50 and later bidding sessions with the supplied total number of

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- products or services stored by said bidding management unit to determine the lowest bidding group in reference to the supplied total number of products or services in decreasing order from the highest bidding group in relation to the
- 5 demanded total number of products or services and sets the bidding price of said lowest bidding group as a market price.

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